



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

SEP 16 1999

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# Public Comment

Date Sept 11, 1999

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program welcomes your participation. Please use the space below for your written comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Comments:

Please see attachment.

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Name: Raymond M. Alden

Organization: Retired business consultant

Address: 3500 Rolling Oaks Rd

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Phone: 707-538-5562 Fax: 707-538-0774

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(800) 700-5752  
<http://calfed.ca.gov>

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**Raymond M. Alden**

3500 Rolling Oaks Rd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Tel: 707-538-5562 Fax: 707-538-0774  
E-mail: [alden@tmn.com](mailto:alden@tmn.com)

September 11, 1999

**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM**  
1416 Ninth St., #1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Friends:

On Thursday evening, September 9<sup>th</sup>, you held a hearing here in Santa Rosa, at which I was present for about the first half. Having no new and relevant facts to put before you, I did not request time for speaking. It quickly became clear, however, that one point of view, only, was being expressed. The farmers were well organized. They came early and signed up to speak early. One after the other, they delivered the same message: "We are important to the public, and water is important to us. Don't take any of it away. In fact, give us more."

Some added a few gratuitous statements about environmentalists having their facts wrong, or "not knowing anything about the subject", but essentially the speakers asked you to get out of their territory. They said that they were of the land; that they hunted and fished, with the implication that they alone really understood where equity and the public interest lie on this issue.

Perhaps, later on, someone was there to speak for the fish, the birds, the forest, the grasslands, and our grandchildren. I hope so. I would hate to think that you might have received the impression that everyone present shared the point of view of the farmers. I did not, and do not.

I commend you for attempting to reconcile so many important points of view, and for your patience in hearing them out. I'm sorry that the hearing process did not ensure that each point of view would be expressed. Taking speakers in order of their arrival on the premises has administrative convenience in its favor, but little else.

One speaker resorted to ridicule, having nothing constructive to offer, and thinking that the name "Friends of the Estuary" would appear ridiculous on its face. I don't know who these "friends" are, but I'd be happy to be counted among them. I am a member of Friends of the River, which amounts to the same thing. I am a native of this state, and a voting resident thereof.

Please continue your valiant efforts to find a workable compromise, and count me among your supporters in that task.

Respectfully,

*R M Alden*